

PRESCHOOL

Ms. Thornton, and
Mrs. Cornelius

In Pre-K this week we discussed migrating birds as well as other behaviors animals have in the winter.

In science, we are learning how important it is to eat healthy fruits and vegetables. We have incorporated language and sensorial into this subject. The students really had fun with our cutting celery exercise.

We are very proud of our students who are now forming words from letters given them, and writing them.

We also had a lesson this week on the squaring chain.

Most of the students are progressing to two part matching, matching objects and words.

Next week we will be learning more about birds and the five senses.

Have a great weekend!

PRIMARY

Mrs. Iannone and Mrs. Korthas

This week primary was very busy.

In language we spoke about “sh” and “ch” words. We learned how it is very important to speak clearly to recognize the differences between those two. We also reviewed our spelling words starting from the beginning of the year.

In Spanish we learned how to ask questions. We will be working on those next week as well.

The Science Jamboree is almost here. We are looking forward to learning something new, and see first hand how these science experiments work in our classroom.

Parents, please make sure the presentation is age appropriate for your child and that he/she feels comfortable telling the class about the project. Some of our children need to speak up, loudly and clearly. (I bet you never thought you would hear us say that!) Busy, busy week. Great job, primary.

Have a great weekend and be safe.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gay and Mrs. Musselman

This week third grade students were introduced to the study of maps. They had the opportunity to map out the classroom and also to interpret information from a printed map. In addition some students worked on graphing information and they learned the importance of accuracy when drawing a graph. All third grade students have had graphing lessons.

We continued our study of insects. Last week we learned about the head, thorax, and abdomen. This week we looked at the nervous and circulation systems of insects. Students learned why the blood of insects is green and not red like their own blood.

We continued our study of the Plains Indians. This week we read The Clever Coyote, a Comanche myth about how all the buffalo were stolen. Having completed the tepee, Adam, Alexa, Kera, and Savannah began to construct their horse drawn travois.

Have a great weekend.

NEWSLETTER STUDENT NEWSLETTER

[Students listen to a presentation of clothing of the period.](#)



[Storyteller gives an account of life during the Civil War era.](#)



[Taylor Hinton is preparing apples for the apple butter at the cannery.](#)



UPPER ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Gutierrez, Mrs. Graham,
Mrs. Petters, Mr. DeVore

Last week the 5th and 6th graders enjoyed their field trip to the Brooksville Raid. Upon our arrival we were drafted into the Confederate Army and learned much about the cavalry, the infantry and the way of life during the Civil War.

In language, fifth graders are learning how to convert double negatives into acceptable standard English; sixth graders are learning about subject pronouns, object pronouns and antecedents.

We would like to congratulate Alexandria and Mateo for earning 100 percent on their last science test. Next week in science, the sixth graders will begin the unit on electromagnetism and the fifth graders are beginning to explore the periodic table.

Due to the Science Jamboree, there will be only one book report this month. Our next book report will be due on February 15th.

JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH

Mrs. Parks, Mrs. Bravo, Ms. Ramirez,
Mr. DeVore

This week we have been speaking about how the third quarter is one of the most challenging of the year. Information in the subject matter is new and many students are learning this information for the first time. This requires more study time. We have been hearing that some of your students do not have homework. As I have stated before if this is the case I suggest you call the front office for a conference.

Sometimes the student's expectations are much different than yours or ours! The difference in getting that A, is most likely from not taking time to go back over the chapter and study. As your student may say, "My work is all done." The work may be complete, but going back and really studying that material is needed. We stress this strongly throughout the year, but especially now that the material the students are learning is not known by previous knowledge.

We would like to congratulate Declan Zhang for completing Pre-Algebra and moving into Algebra 1. What is

so special about this? Declan is in the seventh grade and one of the students that is on track to achieve his Associates Degree upon graduating from high school. Congratulations and keep up the momentum!

Have a great weekend and please be working on your Science Fair project this weekend.

PRIMARY AFTER SCHOOL

Mrs Wagner

This week with the warmer weather we had children practicing jump rope. We made a hopscotch game with chalk and had fun hopping.

Indoors we talked about some ways of measuring. We made a polar bear pretend weather thermometer. We took turns weighing ourselves and comparing weights. We talked about the longest whale and used a string and yardstick to measure its 100 ft length. Then we made a picture of a whale swimming through waves.

UPPER LEVEL AFTER SCHOOL

Ms. Bennett

On the playground the children participated in games such as around the world. On the basketball court, kickball, dodge ball, and running laps were played on the large field. On Friday the children had free play time on the jungle gym.

In circle we discussed the differences of winter in Florida versus the northern states.

In art the children made edible crystalized icicles. They also drew pictures of a Florida winter scene and one of what they thought a northern winter scene looked like.

For cooking this week we made pudding parfaits. The children had a great time preparing this treat.

Have a great weekend.

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When a young child hurts another child the major consequence today is being made to say 'I'm sorry.' Everything is forgiven and forgotten. There is no sufficient punishment to give enough pain to learn a moral lesson. The actual lesson learned is that 'after I get caught as long as I act contrite, I can do anything I want.'

The opposite is true of a strong parental figure that clearly establishes parameters through appropriate consequences. Children respond positively to strong parents and listen to them. Employees listen to the man in charge who sets the rules and enforces them and follows them himself. They respond by meeting the boss's expectations or face his wrath. The employee looks over his shoulder to see if he is satisfying the boss. In the same manner the child looks to his parents to see if he is meeting their expectations.

The person in charge confirms he has the authority and power every time he metes out consequences by promotions or salary increases or by demoting or firing an employee. External discipline breeds internal discipline for people of any age. This is the reason all healthy people want to know where they stand. Children want discipline because then they know their parents care. Dedicated workers feel more appreciated and safer in an environment where they know the expectations and standards on which they will be judged. Authority figures are slacking in this area.

Political leaders are poor role models when they are not telling the truth or enforcing the same rules for everyone. They say one thing and do the opposite. Lying is so prevalent that we joke, "what can we expect, they're politicians?"

These mixed messages are allowed because we, the citizens are not holding them responsible by firing them through the ballot box. Like parents who refuse to punish their children, politicians believe they are entitled to be revered. Citizens like children are becoming cynical and disrespectful of authority figures.

President Obama's press conference about the security lapses of the underwear bomber was a virtuoso performance of double talk. According to him it was a systemic problem but he did not define the specifics, take responsibility for the fiasco or say how he would fix it. This meant no one including himself would be punished for not performing his duty.

The inability to say what he means and mean what he says creates a muddled message. After the investigation of this incident the administration made no operational changes and did not fire anyone. The tone set was business as usual: sloppy and corrupt. This means everyone is secure in his position and no one is in charge.

Under pressure it is easy to place the blame anywhere rather than making the right decision. There is a big difference between throwing an innocent person under the bus and exonerating a guilty one. An honorable civil servant of the president, if wrong, should not wait for a presidential decision. He would admit his mistake and resign to save the president from any embarrassment. No one has yet done so.

Our lack of respecting right and wrong has weakened the quality of our performance and ability to know the honorable thing to do. 'Falling on one's sword' in this society is incomprehensible for there is nothing more important than protecting oneself.

Dishonor becomes commonplace in a culture that promotes arrogance and getting ahead by any means. Tragically this weakens the entire society.

Our duty as citizens is voting. When we do not study and know a representative's record we are being as delinquent as an appeasing parent or boss. It is time for honorable people to fulfill their responsibility to support the conscientious servant or kick the bums out. Honor will be served.